

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: OFFICIAL UNIONISTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1. ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFICIAL UNIONIST PARTY OCTOBER 2 AND 3 AT PORTRUSH PRODUCED SEVERAL INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS: IN ADDITION TO SEVERE ATTACK ON DIRECT RULE BY LEADER HARRY WEST, CONFERENCE SAW INITIATIVES BY CONSERVATIVE PARTY THAT COULD BE PRELUDE TO BID FOR RETURN OF UNIONIST/CONSERVATIVE ALLIANCE AT PARLIAMENT. ONE OFFICIAL UNIONIST AT CONFERENCE CALLED FOR END TO UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COALITION (UUUC), I.E. AN END TO ASSOCIATION WITH REVEREND IAN PAISLEY.

2. MR. WEST REFERRED TO "BONDAGE" OF ULSTER PEOPLE TO "IMPOSED MISMANAGEMENT OF THEIR MOST PRESSING CONCERNS." THIS MISMANAGEMENT, FOR MR. WEST, INCLUDED ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SECURITY SPHERES. HE CALLED FOR SPEEDY RESTORATION OF AN ULSTER GOVERNMENT AS THE PREREQUISITE FOR PEACE AND TRANQUILITY. HE PAID COMPLIMENT TO PEACE MOVEMENT SAYING "..... SUCH LINKS AS EXISTED BETWEEN THE IRA AND A SECTION OF THE POPULATION HAVE BEEN DIMINISHED." MR. WEST EVEN ADDED HIS VOICE TO THOSE WHO ARE AGAIN TALKING ABOUT AN

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"ULSTER IDENTITY", WITH THE PREDICTION THAT "...THE

PRESSURES OF DISASTER THAT SPRING FROM THESE YEARS OF MISRULE ARE LIKELY TO UNITE OUR ULSTER PEOPLE AS PERHAPS WE HAVE NEVER BEEN UNITED BEFORE."

3. MR. EDWARD DU CANN, CHAIRMAN OF CONSERVATIVE 1922 COMMITTEE AT WESTMINSTER, REAFFIRMED PARLIAMENT WISH THAT A BI-PARTISAN POLICY BE MAINTAINED ON NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS. HE CALLED FOR A GOVERNMENT STRATEGY TO DEFEAT TERRORISM. "IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO CONTAIN TERRORISM, TERRORISM IN ALL ITS FORMS MUST BE DESTROYED." HE SUGGESTED INTEREST IN EXPLORING THE SETTING-UP OF A LOCAL ADVISORY BODY BEFORE A DEVOLVED PARLIAMENT WAS REVIVED. CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE BRIGHTON HAS SCHEDULED DEBATE ON NORTHERN IRELAND FOR OCTOBER 5 AND MR. WEST AND ABOUT A DOZEN OTHER UNIONISTS WILL ATTEND. ONE ISSUE OF COMMON INTEREST TO CONSERVATIVES, UNIONISTS AND OTHERS IS THAT OF INCREASED REPRESENTATION AT WESTMINSTER FOR NORTHERN IRELAND. LABOUR PARTY AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY ARE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT INCREASE IN NUMBER OF ULSTER SEATS.

4. ONE DELEGATE TO CONFERENCE, THE FORMER MAYOR OF CRAIGAVON, IN DEBATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ASSERTED THAT THOSE LOST TO UNIONIST PARTY OVER YEARS WOULD NOT RETURN SO LONG AS DEMOCRATIC UNIONISTS (PAISLEYITE) WERE CONNECTED THROUGH THE UUUC. YOUNG UNIONIST LEADERS EARLIER URGED THAT CANDIDATES CONTEST NEXT ELECTIONS AS OFFICIAL UNIONISTS RATHER THAN COALITION CANDIDATES. CONGEN NOTES ISSUE OF WHICH BRANCH OF COALITION WILL PRESENT CANDIDATES IN CERTAIN CONSTITUENCIES IS LIKELY TO BE CRUCIAL IN SURVIVAL OR DEMISE OF COALITION.

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